OREGON.

AMERICAN CAPACITY TESTED.

THE WORKS OF HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT. VOL. XXIX.: HISTORY OF OREGON. Vol. L.: 1834-1848. 8vo. pp. xxxix., 789. San Francisco: The History Company.

The genesis of a State must always study of deep interest, and of the many possible beginnings none es more attraction than that in which the country is colonized by men advanced in civilization, who are brought into direct contact with nature, and forced to learn again the primitive sons of the pioneer. The settlement of Oregon was in this way. It is not a history of desperate dventures with savages, of harrowing privations and sensational events. The long journey across plains was indeed full of hardship of the most trying character, and the caravans that undertook it were winnowed out by a protracted ordeal of exposure, anxiety, hunger, thirst and fatigue, by the time they reached the safe barbor of the Willamete Valley. Once there the worst was over, and thenceforward the tria's of the emigrants vere comparatively light. Yet the history of the settlement is in no way tedious or dull. It is a description of adaptations, of the evolution of orderly government, of the application to the raw material of society of that capacity for government which Americans inherit.

Circumstances too had to some extent facilitated the settlement of Oregon. The Hudson Bay Company, in carrying out its commercial schemes, had been obliged to introduce there a rough form of government, or at least a code of ordinances which. eing sustained by the force of mutual interest, not only secured peaceful relations between the aboricines and the company, but paved the way for the extension of friendly terms when the immigration began. Mr. Bancroft's picture of Fort Vancouver, the early headquarters of the company, in 1834, is picturesque and attractive. John McLoughlin, the head of the company's business in that region, was a man of great natural force and nobility of character. He was beloved by all who knew him. His manners had the stately courtesy of bygone days. His hospitality was sweetened by a rare cordiality. He was humane, genial, upright, and withal determined enough when the occasion demanded firmness. McLoughlin, with a large staff, lived at Fort Vancouver, and thither, once a year, came a quaint procession of bateaux filled with trappers and voyageurs bringing their annual hunting to headquarters. These hardy fellows made a festival of the occasion. They always landed some miles above the fort, to dress themselves in all their best for the parade. Then, decked in gayly trimmed hunting shirts, caps. leggings and moccasins, fluttering with feathers and sparkling with beads, they re-entered their boats, and chorusing their camp-fire songs they approached the fort, where the tall form of John McLoughlin was seen awaiting them. For several days after their arrival a kind of carnival was held. but though there was plenty for all excess was discountenanced. The scene must have been patriarchal in its simplicity, and it stood for a condition which was destined soon to pass away.

The company's sway did nothing, or but little. for civilization. Its aim was commercial profit. To obtain this amity with the native tribes was ary, for quarrels would stop trade and render minting too dangerous. So the employes of the corporation were forbidden to annoy the Indians in any way, or to be on bad terms with them, and the general result of the policy pursued was that where they pleased in perfect safety, while the corration made heavy profits by buying furs from he aborigines at a mere fraction of their value. Of course a fur company does not care for the settlement of its hunting grounds, and had the Hudson Bay Company been on English territory there is no room to doubt that it would have actively uraged immigration. As it was its agents die what they could in this direction by spreading gloomy reports of the country, but the ownership of Oregon was in doubt and dispute, and they could not be sure of their own status from year to year. But John McLoughlin, though in the interest of his employers he was bound not to encourage settlement, never could sit still and see immigrants suffer, and so whenever he heard that any of them were in difficulties, up the Dalles or anywhere, he would always send off a relief party and bring the traveliers into the fort, where they were made heartily welcome.

The missionaries were the first to come. Some of the Southern members. Indians had been taken East and paraded about as converts The field for evangelical work in the far West was said to be extensive. The Methodists, and then the Presbyterians, took up the subject, enthusiastic men were found to devote themselves to the enterprise, and missions were organ ized. The history of these experiments is not cheerful The first missionaries were wholly unfit to cope with the secular difficulties of the situation, and their efforts to convert the heathen were for the most part attended by depressing failure. They started schools, but the Indians would not attend, or if they attended would not learn, or if they applied themselves became sick. The liberation of malarious germs which always follows the breaking up of virgin territory, and the insanitation of the mission buildings generally, produced the natural consequences. When the Indians found disease making havoe among them they of course escribed the misfortune to the white men, and this belief almost paralyzed the missionaries. As a machinery for evangelization the early Oregon missions soon proved futile, but with this discovery a curious change came upon the mission-aries themselves. When they perceived the uselessness of attempting to convert the Indians-who thought they ought to be paid for praying, and seen learned to despise prayers which did not bring them blankets, guns, ammunition or horses-they turned their attention to building up secular prosperity, and endeavored to get hold of as much good land as possible. In a short time this new policy brought them into collision with the Hudson Bay Company, which they antagonized as a rival and a foreign rival. Although for years the territory was in dispute, it is to be remembered that nearly all the Americans who went there looked up n it as though it was already part of the United States. This view, while it hastened settlement and at the same time tended to bring about that which it assumed, rendered McLoughlin's position much more embarrasing. The greed of the missionaries threatened several times to cost serious difficulties. but happily the good sense and equity of the majority prevailed, and no harm was done. When, at a later period, the Catholics in turn sent missionaries to Oregon, a strong rivalry arose between them and the Protestants, and the Whitman massacre so inflamed public opinion that the wildest propositions were made, and in the general excitement came near being adopted. Early in the history of the settlement the misdeeds of a bad darkey led to the demand for the expulsion of all negroes from the country; and in like manner the baseless rumors of Catholic complicity in the Whitman massacre led to a proposal for the banishment of all Catholics. Nevertheless the early Oregon settlers were sin-

gularly cautious in action, and from the first they possessed a working majority opposed to all rash or unjust policies. The missionary element was doubtless narrow and grasping, but it had fixed principles, and it possessed all the courage of its convictions. It was the salt of the young community in fact, and it clearly preserved the Can-adians (mostly French) and the wild Western Americans from the difficulties into which their inexperience and impulsiveness would have led them. Mr. Bancroft's estimate of Dr. Whitman is not so high as that entertained by his former This probably was inevitable, since Mr. Bancroft has no prepossessions and writes with all the facts before him. Taking a liberal and dispassionate view of the missionary's character and career he reaches conclusions which deny Whitman the exalted qualities with which his martyrdom more than his conduct perhaps endowed him in the eyes of friends, admirers and sympathizers; but he shows him to have been a of strong character and many virtues, if with human defects and foibles. He certainly demonstrates also that Whitman has been given more credit than is just for his share in settling the State, and here the evidence seems to be con-

clusive. As to the massacre itself, there appear no escape from the conclusion that the chief victim had received many warnings; that the Indians around his mission had been growing more hostile and restless for years; that they considered themselves deeply wronged by the seizure of their land without payment; and that the increasing immigration convinced them they were to be dispossessed even more quickly than they had feared Nor can it be doubted that there was some ground of equity in their position. In effect they had been solemnly promised payment for their lant. and this solemn promise had been disregarded. Even the missionaries had paid no attention to it, and then too the prestige of the missionaries had suffered from the theological controversies between the Protestants and Catholics. The Indians heard these opposed sectaries declaring each that the other taught a fa'se religion. To the simple native mind such declarations were mutually destructive. The Indian believed both his teachers. and so arrived at the conclusion that both were impostors. Naturally, however, the ceremonial of the Catholics appealed more strongly to the savage imagination than the stern simplicity of the Protestant worship, and thus when faith in either was nearly dead the priests of Rome retained more influence over their backsliding proselytes than their rivals could. This circumstance was employed, after the Whitman massacre, to cast suspicion upon the Catholic missionaries, but the speedy abatement of excitement put an end to that injurious and irrational accusation.

After the missionaries had tried their hand at the immigration which was to sett'e at once the territory and the boundary disputes began to ar-The journey to Oregon in these days was in itself a process of natural selection. In the first place only the adventurous, that is to say the abnormally energetic, offered themselves for the expedition. In the second place only the strongest and most persistent of them went through. Thou-san's of immigrants never saw the Promised Land. They fell by the way, and their comrades went on and left them there. These who arrived had been thoroughly tested, and were fit for whatever exceptionally sound immigration. There was a wild element in it, but nothing like what the gold liscovery afterward attracted to Californ'a. The najority were sober, solid, sturdy people, with American innate ability for self-government. The manner in which they overcame the many diffi- hatching, in the use of roller and even of burin culties of organization; the success with which in the absence of any authority they maintained order and peace; the instinctive shrewdness with which they ada; ted their first institutional proceedings to their fundamental needs; all present most interesting and important points for study. It can be seen how the Anglo-Saxon inheritance came into play here. New-England and the far West supplied, under widely different conditions identical tendencies. The love for and understandthe one element as in the other, and though often opposed on subordinate matters, they could not but unite upon the general principles of the government to be established for their mutual protection and benefit.

The uncertainty caused by the boundary disput with England for a long time embarrassed the shift governmental arrangements. Appeals to Concress were frequent but futile. The slavery question was a disturbing element whenever the extension of the area of the Republic was in question Even though the geographical position of made it inevitably a free territory, many Southern Congressmen viewed the proposed exclusion of the "peculiar institution" from the new territory with unreasoning disapproval, while the sluggish course of international diplomacy afforded a plausible excuse for continued inaction. The popular interest aroused by the stread of information in the interest of settlement meantime increased until tional legislature. Mr. Bancroft's account of the fight for the recognition and organization of Ore gon at Washington is among the most interest-ing features of this volume. The part played by Thomas Benton on behalf of the new territory is well exhibited, as also the nature and extent of the obstacles to progress. Even when the boundary question was settled-on a basis by no means satisfactory to the people of Oregon-the extension of territorial government was delayed in a most exasperating way by the factious opposition of some

pointment of Joseph Lane, the first Governor under the new regular territorial administration. It embraces the campaign undertaken by the settlers to punish the authors of the Whitman Massacre; an there is an example of a more popular, "decorative" expedition as little discreditable to those who took part in it as perhaps any frontier movement of the kind in American history. It is one of the special merits of Mr. Bancroft's narrative that he treats all Indian questions without prejudice. He neither fails fo see nor to point out the abuses to which the native races have been subjected. He endeavors, moreover, to present their case from pression, but it is an expressive as well as a subendeavors, moreover, to present their case from their own point of view, taking fairly into consideration their mental limitations, and never charging them, as many writers have done, with special vices of nature, because they are prone to misdeeds, liability to which they only share with the human race. That they should have risen against an invasion which menaced their very existence was perfectly reasonable; that they should be over-come in the struggle was inevitable; but that they should be accused of treachery and ferocity for defending their immemorial possessions in the only way open to them, is neither just nor necessary. Bancroft realizes this and deals out even-Manded justice.

Such a history is necessarily largely concerned with the doings of individuals, and the present volume contains much biography. Many strongly defined characters appear on the scene, and there is not wanting the intrigue and manœuvre which the pursuit of selfish or factional interest introduces. In every instance the author has labored with conscientious painstaking to make his portraits faithful and to give all the evidence on both sides, wherever a dubious question arises. The footnotes contain a mass of corroborative matter which strengthens and amplifies the statements in the text, and while sometimes the conclusions reached traverse received traditions or put a less pleasing face upon events than previous accounts have given, reference to the authorities so freely cited always sustains the author's judgment and demonstrates the improbability of any future necessity for revising his work. The care and thoroughness which characterize all the preceding volumes of this great literary enterprise are equally apparent here. The style is clear, sober and judicious. The confusion, anxiety and regret attendant upon so serious a disaster as that which lately threatened his life-work are nowhere reflected in Mr. Bancroft's pages, which present only the unimpassioned accuracy of the diligent and scrupulous historian, whose whole energies are devoted to the exhibition of the truth, and whose ambition centres in the successful accomplishment

of that delicate and difficult task. ITALIAN PROCESS FOR HARDENING CADAVERS.-The ong-time secret process of preserving anatomical specilong-time secret process of preserving anatomical speci-mens and of petrifying corpses, pursued by Professor Corni, is, as explained by him, a very simple one. The substances employed are beined linesed oil and depto-chloride of mercury, these being surred up in a mortar until a soft paste is formed; in this paste is immersed the specimen that it is desired to render unalterable by giving it the consistency of stone. The immersion is prolonged for several months, according to the bulk of the body which is to absorb the above-named subof the body which is to absorb the above-named sub-stances. When the induration seems sufficient, the objects are washed with turpentine, and exposed to the objects are washed with turpentine, and exposed to the air until they become thoroughly dry; they are then polished with an agate, and burnished as is done in the sivering and gliding of wood, but without the use of soap and water,—those operations necessarily requiring considerable practice combined with a certain dexicrity. In ease the objects to be preserved contain eavities, the latter are previously filled with a mixture of equal parts of finely powdered coment and dentochloride of mercury; if, also, it be deared to preserve the body with the eyes open, artificial eyes are substituted for the natural once before immersion in the pasts.

Prospects of Peace,—Omaha Man—Dear me, Chatterbox; will you ever stop talking?

Miss Chatterbox—Yes; when I's grown up.

"You are sure you'll stop then, are you?"

"Oh, yes; 'cause then I'll have a little girl of my own, an' I'll let her do the talking."—(Omaha World.

THE PAR :18H ETCHINGS.

PROGRESS OF A YOUNG ARTIST, A complete collection of Mr. Stephen Patrish's etch-work is upon exhibition at the gallery of Messrs Wunderlich & Co. It is not more than eight or nine years since Mr. Parrish etched his first plate "Old Barn. Chester County, Pa." but the natural inclination to ward the artillustrated in these 117 plates has given him a conspicuous place among the comparatively few who adequately illustrate painting etching in this country. Etching has become so cheap and common o the reasons for the individual value of the art. It is the simplest, most direct method of linear expression in permanent form. The artist is not hampered by his materials. He is not obliged to plough hard steel with a burnin, nor painfully to chip away infinitesimal morsels of boxwood for every line or tone other than black. His drawing is done rapidly and with perfect freedom, if not always with academic accuracy. He has an opportunity to put his own personality into his freehand sketches. On account of its autographic

character and the infinite chance for suggestiveness. in commission, pure etching holds high rank is merely a commercial form of picture making. It may be said that the directness of the method is interfered with by the uncertain prants of the acid. There are chances of all kinds to be encountered in of examples to show that the rebellious rean be transformed into an obedient servant.

his plates, but it is clear that from the first he has pocket government of the close corroration order, had an idea of the true province of etching. This collection is not arranged in chronological order, But catalogue enables us to follow the artist's prophia, in New-Jersey and in the Adirondacks, show a not unnatural constraint. The artist has been somenecessity of "putting everything in" from which betray fussiness here and there and an elaboration which has been carried so far at the present day. Apparently the artist was dissatisfied with the want tions of efforts toward tonality as in the "Market Boats," No. 5, and the third state of "On the definite ideas as to comfort and order, and the the first state of No. 19. Now this tendency might have resulted in the multiplication of lines, in cross obtain emphatic blacks and a full range of tones. But fortunately the etcher possessed self re-straint enough to keep the middle course and avoid art. For the language of suggestion was natural to him. This is noteworthy in the frank foreground ing of settled free institutions was as strong in The personal quality of Mr. Parrish's line and cerwe continue to the Gloucester and Cape Ann etchings These, if one insists upon conventional divis-ions, might be said to represent a second period, and it were worth while. In these seaside etchings the drawing is freeer, and more sketchy. The paper plays a more important part. The artist is develping a liking for contrasts, strong accents, and orcible bits of local color as in the high lights upon as is seen in certain of Mr. Platt's etchings, nor are ontrasts made so much of as in some of Mr. Duve-Occasionally he tries omissions unsuccessfully. obtaining gradations of tone by charcoal tints. 48 supplies an instance of over-biting. The "Portshe interest of settlement meantime increased until mouth," "Gloucester Ferry" and "Fishermen's new pressure was brought to ocar upon the na- Houses, Cape Ann," are famillar plates. No 50 shows a reversion to a heavier, more elaborate manner.

are characteristic. They convey no impres external influences. They are carefully not laboriously drawn, with attention to texture. and the arti-t's liking for color is best illustrated in the brilliant sky of his "Low Tide, Bay of Fur an etching which has been added to the great collection at Vienna, of which Adam Bartsch was the curator seventy years ago. In this and other etchings of this time strong lines and deep blacks are freely used. Figures become more prominent. Mr. Parrish's treatment of the figure varies at different periods from shaded drawings, and blocked-in shetches to the merest outlines. But his figures are never the important part of his compositions. In No. 76 treatment and yet something of the exquisite simplicity of No 53, "Environs of Scranton," is felt in this foreground. The former etching, however, has no more especial significance than the two examples of reproductive work. His "Evening, Gloucester," and "Coast of New-Brunswich" are perhaps better stantial piece of etching. As the etcher has continued the love of omissions becomes more noticeable. This is seen in the Florida etchings, which are preceded by a charming little bit, "In the Meadows," something details a spirit of pure so leaves in the florida etchings. thing done in a spirit of pure enjoyment. In the Florida sketches much is left to the paper, and to simple contrasts of black and white as in the figures. of these little more need be said in this general view than that they are sunny and interesting. After them come the etchings from No. 103 onward, which illustrate the latest phase of Mr. Farrish's art. All these etchings will interest a student of painter's etchings. ing. All are undeniably clever, and yet it is impossible to ignore the suggestions of stronger influences In the "Mespek Mills" the touches on the left are in the manner of Haden, and the foliage on the right in the manner of Haden, and the longe on the right is also suggestive, but less so. The "Fishery on the Dee" is distinctly Whistlerian. This is certainly not Mr. Parrish's natural manner. In the "Green-wich" and "London Bridge" water and sky recall Haden, and the foreground figures in the latter tell of the study of Whistier. The plate "Cannes, the Harbor," is interesting, although over-bitten in parts. but the unrestful composition is not satisfying. There is good figure work and action in the "Gale at Fecamp." a clever illustration of the artist's versatility and skill. It is pleasant to be able to leave the collection with the feeling that Mr. Parrish remains a true painter's etcher. He has not failen into the pit of imitation and decoration. His later tendencies are toward greater vivacity, a more piquant sketchiness. Mr. Parrish has abundantly demonstrated his tact in choosing his subjects, but if we mistake not his future etchings will show a still more confident skill in omissions. It is line is spirited and personal and his etchings will not be tiresome. At present the etcher has allowed his own individuality to become subordinated, an irremediable injury if permanent. But we are ready to believe that he will free himself from other influences after a time and evolve a newer manner which will be his own and which will lead to even more brilliant results than are set forth in this HER DEEAM.

Erom The Whitehall Review.

This story being true, in order not to wound the susceptibilities of any one now living. I suppress proper names, as well as a few of the least important delials. As to the improbability, that is a matter of no concern, because it is simply true. As to its impossibility, I leave that to be discussed by the incredulous, who are so wise when they know nothing about a matter.

About ten years ago Lady bash was staying at a large hotel in a fashionable watering-place on the western coast of France. We will call the hotel the Lion d'Or, although that was not its name, the Lady Dash's daughter Blanche, as it is more convenient to have a real Christian name than to subsist on continual initials. The Dashes had just arrived with courier and maid and an immense pile of luggage, intending to stay till Easter, when they were due at Rome. After a rather early dinner, they spent the evening in the gardens, and listened to an excellent band while chatting with some friends who had just turned up. Lady Dash at last said it was delightful, but it was time to go to bed. She led the way in her handsome black draperies, a lace veil thrown over her white hair. Blanche followed slowly, loath to leave the moonlight on the sea, the pregnant shadows in the garden, the scent of flowers and eigarettes, all the brightness and the beauty outside under the stars, and shut herself within four walls with a candle instead of a glowworm. Her mother glanced over her shoulder to see if she were following, and then disappeared inside the wide-open doors which led into a brillantly lighted hail. Although the hotel was already crowded, there were a few fresh arrivals standing by the burean. Blanche looked round with idle currosity at the same time as a man turned away from the sort of pigeon-hole, with the number of his room in his hand, and came quickly across the tesselated pavennent. He was rather under the average height, with broad shoulders, short dark beard, such as mise Frencheme out of ten affect, and a sear on the left cheek. Blanche-stoo

upstairs as fast as she could, panting and terror-stricken, to find her mother.

Lady Dash was quietly taking off her veil when her daughter burst into the room. She closed the door behind her, and then said excitedly: "We must leave this place at once. I wouldn't sleep here another night if you promised me thousands of pounds."

"My dear child, what are you thinking of ! We've only just come." "Never mind, we must go at once. Where's Mary!"

"Never mind, we must go at once. Where's Mary!"

"Reating her supper. I suppose. You must be mad to talk of starting off at this time of night. Nothing would induce me," taking a seat on a small sofa, and looking very determined.

"But, mother dear"—and Blanche knelt down by her and seized her hand.

"Why, whild, you are sold as stoned, what is it!"

"But, mether dear"—and Bianene kneit down by her and seized her hand.

"Why, child, you are cold as stone! What is it!" rubbing her fingers gently and looking down, with growing alarm into her agitated face.

"You know my horrid dream last night," her lips quivering—"how I thought! was being murdered. Just now, in the hall, I saw him."

"You saw whom ! I don't understand."

"The man who murdered me," shaking from head to foot. "I should know him anywhere. He has a scar on his left cheek."

"But, my dear, this is childish nonsense. Who pays attention to dreams! I dreamed most vividly one night that I was shipwrecked. Am I never to go into a boat again!"

"But that's different. Oh, mother, do you want to see my threat cut!"

my threat cut I" "Don't ask such horrible questions. You must be reasonable. We can't leave at this time of night. It would create quite an esclandre. You shall have Mary to sleep on the soft."

in the sofa."

"Mary, who goes into hysterics at a spider!"

"Then I will stay with you myself," magnanimously.

Anything to satisfy you."

Blanche assented to this with a deep-drawn sigh. She onld not help seeing the difficulties in the way of an immediate departure, but as far as she herself was concerned, she would rather have slept in a cowhouse than under the roof of the Lion d'Or. Lady Dash could not be expected to consent to the cowhouse, so she reluctantly are way.

expected to consent to the cowhouse, so she reluctantly gave way.

The two ladies, naving ascertained that they had a sufficient stock of light and literature, and having securely locked the door, established themselves in Blanche's bedroom and prepared for a wakeful night. Lady Dash's nerves were on the alert, although she pool-pooled the whole affair, and she started uncomfortably when an old gentleman sneezed on the stairs or a waiter dropped a pair of boots. By-and-by the hotel became quiet, the doors ceased to bang, and the last scrap of conversation was silenced. Lady Dash, after reading, or pretending to read, for some time, began to grow drowsy.

About a yard from the bed was the door, of which Blanche had a distinct view as she sat at a little ornamental table placed at the end of the bed. Lady Dash, when her eyes were open could also see the door across the corner of the bed, but she did not think it necessary to watch it as her daughter did. There was a looking-glass draped with coarse lace, into which Blanche felt compelled to look every now and then, as it stood on her right hand. As the hight wore on she had an uneasy feeling that there was somebody standing behind her, and at the next glance she would see him reflected in the mirror. This terror grew on her fill she was afraid to look over her shoulder. Her mother was fast asleep and she felt as if she were no protection to her. She longed to wake her, but knew it would be cruel. Suddenly there was a sound-an unmistakable, cautious footstep. They did not look at each other, but kept their eyes fixed in the same direction. Breathlessiy they watched, and gaw the handle of the door turn. Their hearts seemed ready to burst in the paose that followed. Again it was tried, but the look resisted; then there was silence. Every sense seemed merged in listening. They waited with white faces and clammy hands, their neves the ready of the town that the mirrierer—if murderer he were—was balked, and The two ladies, naving ascertained that they had a suffi

is, their nerves strung to the utmost point of the murderer—if murderer he were—was based come again.

But all these ladies and gentlemen, did they sleep with ir doors unlocked?" inquired Lady Dash, feeling that y had brought their misfortunes on themselves by ir own imprudence.

Not at all, madanae: but the rancies had an easy concaree by which he could turn a key in a lock, and so in the door."

he door."
en why didn't he open ours!"
must have been the light that protected you,
me. He saw it, and guessed that you were sitting

Lady Dash shivered at the danger they had run, but allowed herself to be persuaded to stay. Commonsense told Blanche that the Lion D'Or was the last place to which "the man with the scar" would return, unless brought there involuntarily in the hands of the police. So she allowed berself to go to sleep at night without listening for his footsteps. It was a relief to her mind when the thief was caught and finally sentenced to a considerable term of travaux forces. This happened tenyears ago. The term of imprisonment is probably over, consequently Blanche lives with the sword of Danoeles hanging over her head; for until the man with the scar s known to be dead she knows there is a possibility that the dream may yet be fuifilled. Absit omen.

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